IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-21 (Canceled)

22. (New) A slave device comprising:

a receiver configured to receive, from a master device for a data synchronization group, a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to a data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data;

a memory configured to store the received certificate and the priority; and

a certification unit configured to determine, when a synchronization request from another device is received, whether or not the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate stored in the memory; and

a synchronization unit configured to perform data synchronization between the another device and the slave device based on the priority stored in the memory when the certification unit determines that the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group.

23. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein said memory stores the received certificate and the priority after it is confirmed that there is no other device, other than said master device and said slave device, capable of communicating with said master device and set in a registration mode.

24. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein said another device comprises one of another master device and one or more slave devices.

25. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein said master device and slave device are configured to store plural types of data and belong to plural data synchronization groups defined for each of said plural types of data.

26. (New) The device according to claim 25, wherein said memory is configured to store said certificate and said priority from the master device belonging to a given synchronization group defined for a given type of data, said certificate and said priority being set depending on the given type of data.

27. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the receiver is configured to receive data required to operate as the master device from said master device, thereby transferring the master privilege to the slave device.

28. (New) The device according to claim 27, wherein said master privilege transferring is performed after it is confirmed that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a master privilege transfer mode.

29. (New) The device according to claim 22, further comprising an exchanging unit which exchanges the priority between another slave device that belongs to the same data synchronization group.

30. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein said priority exchanging is performed after it is confirmed that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a priority exchanging mode.

31. (New) A method for synchronizing data, comprising:

receiving at a slave device, from a master device for a data synchronization group, a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to the data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data;

storing in a memory the received certificate and the priority; and

determining, when a synchronization request from another device is received, whether or not the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate stored in the memory; and

performing data synchronization between the another device and the slave device based on the priority stored in the memory when the certification unit determines that the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, comprising:

confirming, prior to said storing step, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a registration mode.

33. (New) The method according to claim 31, comprising:

confirming, prior to said storing step, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a registration mode.

34. (New) The method according to claim 31, wherein said master device and slave device store plural types of data and belong to plural data synchronization groups defined for each of said plural types of data.

35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein said master device belongs to a given synchronization group defined for a given type of data, and said storing step comprises storing said certificate and said priority in dependence on the given type of data.

36. (New) The method according to claim 31, comprising:

transferring, from the master device to the slave device, data required to operate as the master device, thereby transferring a master privilege to the slave device.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, comprising:

confirming, prior to transferring master privilege, that there is no other master device and no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a master privilege transfer mode.

38. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprising:

exchanging priority between another slave device that belongs to the same data synchronization group.

39 (New) The method according to claim 38, comprising:

confirming, prior to said priority exchanging step, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a priority exchanging mode.

40. (New) A computer program product storing instructions which when executed by a computer causes the computer to implement a method for performing data synchronization, said method comprising:

receiving at a slave device, from a master device for a data synchronization group, a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to the data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data;

storing in a memory the received certificate and the priority; and

determining, when a synchronization request from another device is received, whether or not the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate stored in the memory; and

performing data synchronization between the another device and the slave device based on the priority stored in the memory when the certification unit determines that the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group.

41. (New) The computer program product according to claim 40, wherein the method comprises:

confirming, prior to said storing step, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a registration mode.

42. (New) The computer program product according to claim 40, wherein the method comprises:

confirming, prior to said storing step, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a registration mode.

43. (New) The computer program product according to claim 40, wherein said master device and slave device store plural types of data and belong to plural data synchronization groups defined for each of said plural types of data.

44. (New) The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein said master device belongs to a given synchronization group defined for a given type of data, and said storing step comprises storing said certificate and said priority in dependence on the given type of data.

45. (New) The computer program product according to claim 40, wherein the method comprises:

transferring, from the master device to the slave device, data required to operate as the master device from said master device, thereby transferring a master privilege to the slave device.

46. (New) The computer program product according to claim 45, wherein the method comprises:

confirming, prior to transferring master privilege, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a master privilege transfer mode.

47. (New) The computer program product according to claim 40, wherein the method comprises:

exchanging priority between another slave device that belongs to the same data synchronization group.

48. (New) The computer program product according to claim 47, wherein the method comprises:

confirming, prior to said priority exchanging step, that there is no other slave device capable of communicating with said master device and set in a priority exchanging mode.

49. (New) A slave device comprising:

a receiver configured to receive, from a master device for a data synchronization group, a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to the data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data;

a memory configured to store the received certificate and the priority;

a synchronization unit configured to perform data synchronization between another device and the slave device based on the priority stored in the memory; and

an instruction unit configured to determine, when a synchronization request from another device is received, whether or not the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate stored in the memory and to instruct the

synchronization unit to perform the data synchronization when it is determined that the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group.

50. (New) A method for synchronizing data, comprising:

receiving at a slave device, from a master device for a data synchronization group, a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to the data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data;

storing the received certificate and the priority in a memory;

performing data synchronization between another device and the slave device based on the priority stored in the memory;

determining, when a synchronization request from another device is received, whether or not the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate stored in the memory; and

performing data synchronization when it is determined that the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group.

51. (New) A computer program product storing instructions which when executed by a computer causes the computer to implement a method for performing data synchronization, said method comprising:

receiving at a slave device, from a master device for a data synchronization group, a certificate indicating that the slave device belongs to the data synchronization group to which the master device belongs and a priority to be used for solving conflict of data;

storing the received certificate and the priority in a memory;

performing data synchronization between another device and the slave device based on the priority stored in the memory;

determining, when a synchronization request from another device is received, whether or not the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group by using the certificate stored in the memory; and

performing data synchronization when it is determined that the another device and the slave device belong to the same data synchronization group.